

## THE TRIBULATIONS OF EDITORS.

Few People Have as Many Trials—Like Preachers, They Are Poorly Paid.



AN there be any greater mistake than to suppose journalism is devoid of trials and tribulations? A great many people imagine that the life of an editor is a very pleasant one. This is a grave mistake. Few people have as many trials and tribulations as the average editor. There are so many drawbacks in the editorial career that we have only time to touch lightly on a few.

As a general thing the editor, like the preacher, is very poorly paid, says *Texas Siftings*. If he is on a political paper and his candidate and party are successful the editor is forgotten in the hour of rioting. The political



THE POLITICAL EDITOR AT WORK.

bummer gets paid for his services during election times in actual cash. The editor gets paid for his services in thanks.

But a life of poverty would not be so bad if the editor's feelings were not being continually plowed up by unfeeling persons, when, for instance, the office boy announces that a gentleman outside has a bill he wishes paid. It is painful at times to decline manuscript, but in such cases it should be done.

It is very trying to an editor's feelings when a supposed friend says: "I saw an excellent thing in your paper the other day," and when the editor imagines it was one of his editorials, he adds with a cruel, cynical smile: "It was a recipe for making lobster salad." But about the meanest thing to do to an editor is to ask him where he is going to spend the summer.

Very frequently journalists are unkind to each other. Not long since the following appeared in a country paper: "We do not desire to be personal, but if the lean, lank, liver-colored lump of lunkheadedness we refer to the thimbleful of alleged brains that editally our esteemed contemporary, etc."

How painful it must be to the editor's wife, when asked by the rag man if she has any rags for sale, to be obliged to reply: "No; my husband is down at the office, and he has all his clothes on him."

Then the editor has oftentimes trouble in the manipulation of the mechanical department of his paper, when, for instance, the chuckle-headed new press-



"WE DO NOT DESIRE TO BE PERSONAL."

man greases the forms to make the roller run slick, thus causing the paper to look as if it had been chucked together with a shovel.

And as for having leisure hours, that is something about which the editor has no ideas whatever. If he has any he spends them in catching up with his work.

## An Absent-Minded Farmer.

A Scotch farmer who was a little absent-minded was one day going into Perth with a load of hay. He led the horse out of the stable, but instead of backing it into the frame of the wagon he absent-mindedly led the animal along the road and never as much as looked behind him till he walked into the yard, leading the horse, where the hay was to be delivered. "Whaur will I back into?" he cried to a stableman standing by. "Back in what?" asked the man. "The hay, you stupid idiot." "What hay? Ye've nae hay, ye daft gowk." Turning round, to his consternation the farmer for the first time apprehended the fact that he had left the wagon at home and brought the horse alone. In his hurry to repair the error he started off at a trot and was half way back to his own farm before he realized the fact that he had left the horse behind. — *Scottish American*.

## As Loving and Sentimental as Ever.

"I don't think Jones has been indulging too much," said his kindly believing posse, "but still I thought it rather odd of him that he should wrench the smasher off the front door and bring it up to me as I sat in bed, saying that he'd gathered another run for me out of the garden. Poor dear, simple boy! He's just as loving and sentimental as ever he was." — *True Stories*.

There is said to be a town at Montreal, U.S., which bears three kinds of suit—suits, pants and socks.

## HOW HORN COMBS ARE MADE.

BY EMMA VILLO.



COMBS are made from horns gathered in Australia and South America, and from buffalo horn brought from various quarters. Each market supplies a horn of a distinct character, and the characteristic is closely maintained in the production of the combs. The processes adopted in manipulating the horn are, however, one and the same for all kinds. The first operation is to cut the horn in several different ways, so that when it is opened it shall be of rectangular shape.

This cutting involves the loss of several large pieces, and also of the tips so far as comb-making is concerned; but the pieces are sold to manufacturers of other commodities, so that the total loss is comparatively slight. To assist the action of the knife, the horn is heated to a certain degree over the fire, by the side of which the operator sits. When cut, the horn is often softened and opened by tongs and placed between screw plates wherein, under the influence of a strong pressure, the pieces are flattened out.

It is a characteristic of the horn to remain when cold just as it is shaped when warm; so that, when the pieces are removed from the screw plate, they do not warp or curl up again. Such pieces as are intended to be used for imitation tortoise shell are subjected to an enormous pressure between heated and oiled iron plates. This heavy pressure, however, weakens the horn and renders it liable to split. Omitting the drying stage, the next process is to cut the pieces into suitable sizes and shapes for combs, and after that the teeth are cut. Originally this was done by hand.

Now it is done by circular saws, some of which are so fine and thin as to cut from seventy to eighty teeth per lined inch. They revolve at a very rapid rate; but, instead of traveling up to the horn, the horn travels up to the saw. After each cut the horn is automatically moved forward the exact breadth of a tooth, and it is possible to arrange that a fine or a coarse tooth shall be cut at pleasure. This in itself is sufficient to stamp the machine as a most ingenious piece of work.

After the tooth cutting, the combs are next thinned or tapered down to their outer edges. This is done on grindstones, and in due succession the teeth are rounded, pointed, or beveled, as the case may require, by a special kind of file, or rasp.

If from this stage it is necessary to treat the horn, to make it an imitation of tortoise shell, the object is effected by first applying a dilute nitric acid, which imparts a light-yellowish tinge, and afterward by dropping over certain spots a composition containing caustic soda, litharge, and dragon's blood.

After some time the blood is washed off, but the spots beneath it are found to be slightly swollen up, and stained to a deep orange tinge. It then only remains to polish the combs, whether they are to plain horn or in imitation of tortoise shell. This is done by first sandpapering, to get a smooth surface, then buffing on leather wheels, and finally polishing on wheels made up of circular pieces of calico, with frayed edges, which, though so soft in themselves, present a hard face when being rapidly revolved.

## A Fair Railroad President.

Mrs. Haines is the first woman ever chosen to the Presidency of a steam railroad, but in her case there can be



no doubt of the wisdom of the selection, her qualifications for the position being conceded by all who know her. She is the wife of Mr. C. D. Haines, senior member of the well-known Haines Brothers, brokers and owners of the street and short-line railroads in several States. They own a number of railroads, steam and street, in the Lone Star State, the Medina Valley being one. Mrs. Haines, the fair President of this line, is said to be a most efficient officer as well as a most beautiful woman.

## A Dog's End.

Mr. Jaeger of Rochester, New York was frequently puzzled by the absence of his dog. The animal was frequently absent half a day at a time, and recently was missing for two days. His owner advertised for him, and on the following day he was returned by a man who had discovered his peculiar mania. It was for riding on street cars. He will get aboard of any car he sees and ride until he is put off. Mr. Jaeger proposes to get a season ticket and attach it to the dog's collar, that he may indulge his street car propensities in a proper and legal way.

## What the Matter Was.

"What is the matter with that babe?" growled an irascible husband as the little one persisted in howling and kicking to the extent of his little might.

"The matter is, sir," calmly replied the wife, as she strode up and down the floor, "the matter is that this baby is about to be born."

And the husband returned to his room with a ghastly look that he bore.

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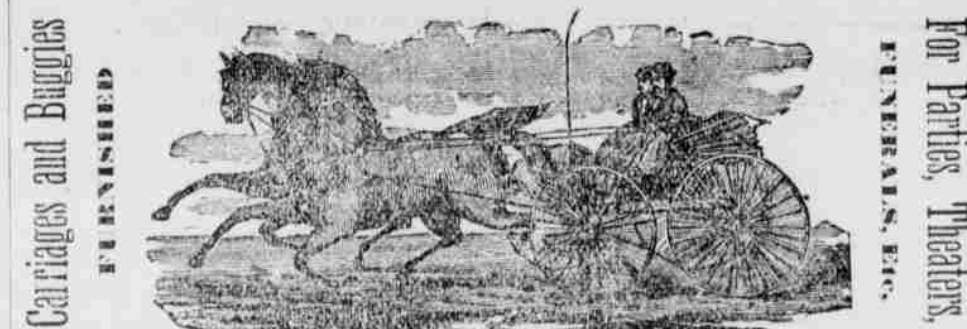
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